
By: **Delegate Elliott**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse - Definition - Exemption for Reasonable Punishment by Parent**
3 **or Stepparent**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying the definition of "abuse" in certain provisions of law to
5 specify that the term does not include certain reasonable punishment
6 administered by a parent or stepparent.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
9 Section 35C(a)(2)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Family Law
14 Section 5-701(b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

20 35C.

21 (a) (2) (I) "Abuse" means:

22 [(i)] 1. The sustaining of physical injury by a child as a result of
23 cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act by any parent or other
24 person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for
25 supervision of a child, or by any household or family member, under circumstances
26 that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby; or

